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THE

FORTY DAYS MADNESS

OF A

General Election

IN

ENGLAND;

WITH A

LETTER

OF

ESSENTIAL ADVICE

TO THE

SCRUTINEERS OF WESTMINSTER.

By J. Williams - author of the Crisis of the Colonies.

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N O V E L :

*The Forty Days Madness of an English
General Election.*

THE last trump sounds, and the parliament is no more. From this moment, a general delirium extends its infection from the metropolis to the most distant corner of the kingdom. As the event is spread progressively, it draws after it every species of folly and madness, that Fancy in her most lawless state can possibly suggest, to make the nation a spectacle: the more black and abhorrent, as it is viewed by the eye of philosophy, or examined by foreigners of understanding, who have heard the constitution of England so loudly trumpeted

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peted

peted from the lowest counter to the highest nobleman's mansion. But to the point.

CORNWALL now becomes a land of Canaan, a second land of promise. The prospect changes from sterility to views of the most pleasing verdancy, fertilized by the expected showers of gold, with which the general election never fails to refresh the famished electoral tenements of Cornwall. Hope urges the young ; between hope and despair, the old burgesses, so often deceived, alternately smile and frown ; vanity dresses out the young maiden ; and avarice presses on the half-starved attorney, to wait in batalia, and receive the visits of Asiatics and others, who ostentatiously bring with them all the seducing charms that can lead captivity captive, intermixt with the most latent and obnoxious designs, that tend to final plunder, and that anarchy, of which so many symptoms have occasionally distracted, and at last brought England to totter to the very center. This is the time when a vote is to be a husband to the virgin, to the usurious attorney, a livelihood for

Smart gibes of Dr. B. do it with the best
bees.



life. Suitably to the importance of a vote, its management is ably contrived to over-reach the young, vain, and simple, or honest candidate; and to mislead even the veteran, though expert in the tricks of election, and prepared to escape or entrap in the nets of seduction.

AFTER this exordium, I shall refer my readers to the genuine sentiments of both electors and candidates, and they shall speak for themselves.

*A Conference between a Peer and his
Steward Mr. Stanary.*

STANARY. I MUST take the liberty to repeat to your Lordship, what I have often recommended to your predecessor, relative to a manufactory which your Grace could easily establish in the town; and by enriching the inhabitants of it, accomplish the means of raising your houses in the borough, and making your farms ad-

joining it more valuable than they are at present. I often recommended it to the late Lord Warden, as a scheme that could not fail to do him the greatest honor, and give him in the county as much interest as any man ever possessed in it: but he was always turning his back to all I could say, and was continually giving himself up to the game of reversée, so much beloved in Italy, where we hear of nothing but earthquakes, and the melancholy effects of nature, that seems to be preparing to swallow up, or lay in ruins, a country once as celebrated for virtue, as now ignominious for the blackest vices; such, my Lord, as once laid Sodom in ruins. Your Grace will excuse my openness in giving you all the knowledge I am master of, with respect to the premises you have lately entered upon.

THE PEER. Stop, Mr. Stanary; you go too far. Your advice would have done for that old antediluvian Sir Roger de Coverly, who was content in the confines of simplicity, and delighted more in making others happy in the country, than preserving any importance in town. Supposing I were so

great

great a fool as to follow his example, do you imagine Mr. P— would admit me to an audience, or his M— ever accost me on the terrace of Windsor, or permit me to partake of a single word in the magic circle in Windsor park, where I now am equal to M— and the Archdeacon, that prim-rose of the pulpit ? No, Sir, no ; I should be nothing but a country cipher, laugh at and despised. The dignity I have arrived at, by pushing the little faculties given me by nature, must be preserved by advancing on a line of political wisdom, and by keeping up my parliamentary interest. My manufactory must be confined to making members, and selling them. . Perhaps I may not be always so fortunate as I have lately been, in meeting with the Irish— Stop, Sta-
nary, you are assuming a laugh I will not permit any man but myself to enjoy, at the expence of the Knight. The old Lady pays handsomely for him ; and rather than not to have raised him to the rank of a gentleman, she would have given four thousand pounds for a seat. She laid it down handsomely, and did not attempt to conceal her treasure. Reflect a moment what a price is asked for

Gatton, a little place within the confines of Garrat. Consider how many families go into parliament, to keep up the market of us burgage holders. As for a parliamentary reform, we, who brought in the young Minister, know his private sentiments, and have nothing to fear from his great efforts to destroy the tenure I and others possess for our mutual support, dignity, and protection. For the future, do not attempt to talk to me of promoting the opulence of the town, or of enriching the inhabitants. Such measures as you recommend would have those effects, and undo me at the Levee. If you wish for my favor, you must keep the sheep low, and just alive. If any burgage holder grows rich, contrive to send him out of the town. I will not suffer any commerce to be introduced in it, but make it obedient to me from poverty; and in a very few years I hope to see the church with an illiterate curate from Wales, and the bells unable to ring. It my wishes I keep Old Sarum in my view, and shall make it the great criterion of true burgage, honor, and look upon it as a venerable part of the constitution, which Lord N---- has shewn his fondness for;

for: having corroded every pillar of it, he is grown fond of the melancholy skeleton of his own making. Thus, Stanary, you see I mean to be my own steward.

My Lord, I beg pardon; I see you are equal to any thing, and I shall proceed to America. In England, the game of reverse is become general, and the manners of the people are degenerated; anxious for fortune, and not honor; whilst artificial mockery supplants all true happiness, and the splendid meanness of the nobility itself proclaims the loss of that old plain simplicity of manners, which once nourished virtue, and made England great.

The Sentiments of an Asiatic Candidate.

IN a storm on my last voyage from Asia, my fears of an offended God tortured my soul. My conscience awakened my fears, and shewed me the bloody dagger with which I had made widows and orphans. I viewed, by compulsion, and the force of

some

some innate principle operating upon my feelings, the contracts and agreements, by which I plundered so many farmers, and even princes, of the property I now possess. At that juncture I would gladly have given up all, and compounded for a little of that tranquillity, which innocence alone claims as her right, and suffers none to enjoy, who violate the laws of nature. I was a temporary penitent through fear more than conviction, and am now a second champion for all the old vicious habits I find it impossible to tear from my heart, without dispossessing it of its lulling opiate. I am resolved to advance and gratify my ambition by getting into parliament: it is by its assistance alone I can hope to avoid the cries of the injured; it is there I can safely whisper with the Minister, and by supporting him, obtain not only indemnity, but a title.

BE the price ever so great, I am resolved to be a senator. Once I am seated in the fashionable house of legislative importance, I may find my way to Brooks's, to the Jockey Club at Newmarket, and the Levee itself.

The

The question is, how to proceed. R——— is no longer in the Treasury ; but still the mansion of corruption is open, at least to members, though shut to all others, be their merit ever so great. I may still make an instrument of good-tempered Steele, that might protect and guard me. I can get a seat by the assistance of old M———, the great election agent for Cornwall ; but he and the borough lords of Cornwall are too imposing even for an Asiatic. I will at once strike with the Treasury, and yawn into parliament. I may be perfectly secure of F—'s, or P—'s support, in proportion to the interest I shall be able to give either, as the questions relative to India may arise. Then, Conscience, I am your master ; down, down to hell ; the cries of massacred infants and distressed widows are ineffectual. I am on a level with the famous Cheesemonger's son, the gaming General, and others, who have escaped national punishment. Reformation in parliament is my only dread ; but the present, and all other Ministers, will dread it as much as I do ; so I am safe. With what contempt shall I look down on all those honest fellows, as they are called,

who are pinned down to the counter ! whilst I, who have made and unmade princes in Asia, ride triumphantly to the House.

WHILST parade and ostentation rule England, so long we, who have visited Asia, cannot fail to be the most conspicuous figures on the canvas. A diamond-ring made P—'s family great and brilliant. In short, what mighty things have not been done by Asia, to compleat the grandeur of England, and to hasten the great climacteric, which imperial Rome touched, and nobly fell. I am safe, till repentance shall strike the people of England from the force of calamity, and a general convulsion work out a reform of national manners. In the interim, Parliament is the pampered steed of Fashion ; and I am resolved to mount and make it subservient to my pleasure. *Sic transit gloria mundi.*

A Soliloquy.

A VOTE, says the old expert Alderman, may comprise our possessions in Asia; the Carnatic may depend on a casting vote; and, in the same decision, the fortune of P— and F— must assuredly sink or rise. Thus Asia and the two Orators are in the grasp of our corporation. I am too conscious of the importance of my parliamentary interest, to turn it to little or mean purposes. To save a sinking family cannot be a very great crime; to avert ruin that menaces my declining trade is patriotism. P— and F— have a bank of eloquence; and impose on credulity by the jingle of fine words, coined in the mint of their own fancy: Out of the mouth of either, the words Patriotism, Liberty, and Constitution, lull, captivate, and divest the enchanted followers of each, of the faculties of reason. Among such followers, I have seen broken hearts, and fortunes undone by a foolish reliance on the more glittering revenues raised

and cherished by promises made, and constantly forgotten, by ambitious statesmen, once as much respected as Mr. P— and F—, but now condemned and execrated universally. No; P— is a man; and so am I: the same number of senses he possesses, I possess. He has the advantage indeed of Greek and Latin; I of figures. For food, he relies on parliament, and so do I, to my misfortune; he indulges with a young dulcinea, I with an old honest wife. *O tempora! O mores!* He is idolized by those who know him not; I am idolized by children, who, from the first lisp of nature, look to me for protection. If I give my vote for a sum of ready cash, I am not thereby more guilty of corruption, than Mr. P— in refusing to act for the service of his country, unless he is previously allowed to secure a good place for himself, and those whose support is united with his own. When I see statesmen act without pay for the good of the country, I shall be glad to follow the example, and vote gratis. The electors have more reason to call for reformation of statesmen, than those vain talkative impostors to call for reformation of our morals.

morals. Thus I am armed and fortified; and the candidate must freely bleed, who receives my vote. I am resolved resolutely to vote for even Dick Smith, should he waddle down, and pay his devoirs to the electoral dominions of the duchy of Cornwall.

I ONCE voted for Pinguin of Jamaica, and my tongue was tortured for seven long years that carried parliament to its timely dissolution. I am grown wise by experience; and I have in possession a list of candidates that must get into parliament, or be undone. No seat, no place or pension. In my catalogue I have a Mr. C—, a rich son of a St. Kitt's smuggler, who has already shewn exquisite art in duping Ministry, and appointing a Collector of the first importance. Some such artful cunning fellow is superior to the son of an empty peer, or idle macaroni, who would lose his estate to preserve his rank in the Dunciad at Almack's, and yet be startled to come down handsomely with an elector. But he that has ambition to hurt, and yet knowledge to recover his lost estate

*Collected m: B for
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estate by assistance of the Treasury, the general reservoir of corruption, that is the candidate who stands, in my opinion, superior to the other wretches even of the county who boast of *natale solum*, and who, by going into parliament, become dupes; fall sacrifices to annuity brokers, or to the Secretary of the Treasury, the great broker of parliamentary tongues, of which he keeps a bag, and in that bag the fate of a whole nation.

P— has his bag, and so has F—; but shake them together, and the contents would be nearly the same: ambition, pride, avarice, self-sufficiency, and all the progeny of Satan, would be found in each. Not but there are men of integrity in the kingdom: Dr. J—, and a few others, shew it, by keeping out of parliament. Those at elections who rise highest on the poll, generally are found the lightest in regard to virtue. When I hear a popular borough

* Jebb.

running

running mad for a Sir Charles T—, or a Sir Richard H—, I inquire into their principles, find out the views of each, and I discover them to be lighter than vanity itself. To sum up all the materials of political faith or disbelief, I confess myself to be an infidel, and regard both P— and F— as two great impostors, and equal to Mahomet, or any other leader of multitudes who have notoriously proved to be so. Mr. M— L—d, the famous broker, generally called the Man-eater, is a member of the House; and I am certain, where he is, there must be contagion enough to pollute and disgrace a whole assembly. Thus fairly considering the present motives of getting into parliament, and duly weighing the calamity and distress brought on by the plunderers of their country, one candidate seems to have almost as much merit as another, and affection would lead me to give no vote at all; but I am distressed by taxes, with which these parliamentary brokers have involved me and my family. The crime is theirs; the misfortune mine, to vote where I cannot confide; it is my necessity, and not

not my inclination. My vote must be sacrificed, and it shall be sacrificed for my family.

The Reflections of a Cobler.

BEFORE the last election, I was happy; my business supported my family, and my children were my comfort. Though I could not loll at the Opera with the intriguing people of fashion, yet I enjoyed our rural songsters of the grove; and was contented, at a good fire-side, to whistle in tranquillity, and laugh at what the world calls greatness. But unhappily for me, at the last election, a rich Western Indian entered my shop, and invited me to dine with him. I foolishly accepted his invitation; madly bought a new hat and coat; and expected to have received, from the fine candidate, as much rum and sugar as would sweeten my labor, and add to my spirits, which were, however, very excellent. The candidate gave me such an hearty squeeze of

of the hand, that I was always drinking his health ; and I trembled for a second touch, until I had the misfortune to hear of his being ruined by the fall of credit, and capture of the West Indies. At that moment, I cursed Lord N—— for making war, damned Columbus for finding out the West Indies, and sold my awl. My poor old instrument could stand it no longer ; and my wife absconded with the butcher's son.

I HAVE reason to dread an election : but as I was undone by one, I hope to be made by another, and again stake my awl on my vote. If I could mend and cobble up our old member, I would vote for him ; but I know his soul to be narrow and incorrigible. I shall vote for some of the ready cash, the balsam of Peru, without which I must go to gaol. If I escape this time, I shall not be so mad as to trust to another election.

aid gainfardh ayswir saw I tsds. bndd vlt to
dcoot bnoct n fct bldgdsif I bus vldv
and *The disconsolate Widow made happy.*

qso bus vldv to llar vlt vld bndd vld
dmonm vld vld vld vld vld vld vld vld vld

FOR three successive elections, my husband ruled the great political clubs that make and unmake members and statesmen. To support his country, he undid his family; and in acting as an imaginary friend to the constitution, he was a real enemy to his children: they were on the brink of ruin, when the news of a general election relieved us from famine, by occasioning his death. Having seen the Doctor, as I called him, though he was only an Apothecary, so often deluded, and so frequently the author of delusion that fascinated and beggared half the parish, I resolved to sell my burgage houses, and never run the risk of perishing in the cold, from the hopes my husband had vainly grasped of making two members, by his interest of decayed and worm-eaten tenements, called Prince's Tenements, in Cornwall, and to Mr. Ras—ly more valuable than his farms, at least till his fraudulent right of creating voters be examined and

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annihilated. Happily I found out a broker, and resolved to sell all my tenements to an Asiatic Attorney, who is desirous of becoming of formidable consequence to the Minister. Though I have lost the flattery of candidates, I have secured domestic tranquillity, to which I was a stranger, whilst my husband continued to exhaust his substance to please, and in his turn to be thought a leading man, and be ranked equal to the electioneering agents of the Duke of Charing Cross, and others accidentally wafted into such titular greatness and unmerited honor at Court. ~~things before I was a widow~~ ~~and his master whom I assisted~~ ~~and~~ My poor husband, having spent his last, left me to curse the madness of elections, to beg, or to act as I have done, in changing popular respect for an honest livelihood got by spinning and industry. I wish all others would follow my example in time, and take the mite of a widow's advice. If industry has its painful moments, it secures ultimate happiness; on the contrary, dependency on the great is perpetual slavery, and of all torments the most excruciating to an honest mind, ~~happily or unhappily you go to bed at last~~

The Reverie of a Clergyman,

I TOTALLY disregarded a message I received from our Bishop, and voted at the last election against his friend, the Knight of the Shire; a man as full of tyranny in the country, as he is a poor mendicant at the Minister's levee; if his fortune is sufficient to make him independent, his ambition for a title makes him an abject tool. From the day I voted agreeably to my conscience, I became a markt man, and bitterly oppressed. My affliction, not to be able to maintain my children as I wish to do, is increased by seeing myself cut off from every hope of promotion; and for no other reason, than for acting with honor. The fatal hour is again approaching; my butcher is desired to gead me; and my little children urged to upbraid me for not doing as others do, in conformity to fashion. Mr. Gripe is the cause of my present disquietude, and reproaches from my children; and is bent on my conversion to villainy, or

resolved

resolved to crush me. He is a tall, cadaverous, pale-faced Attorney; differing not in avarice, though so unlike in person, to the gigantic W—, who has fed so luxuriously, as clerk to every different Chancellor that has been made since the time of H—'s promotion. This callous-hearted Mr. Gripe, bred up under the particular care of the famous Annuity Attorney of Golden-square, is continually tempting me to add my name to his list of voters, now upon sale. He says, my integrity shall be my ruin; and talks to me of a bond and judgment to my butchery, or to prepare for gaol. Though I am proof against this scorpion of human shape, yet to the stings I have received from him, others not to be borne, are added from my friends, who call me madman for not pursuing the beaten track to honor and promotion: but I had rather encounter their reproaches, bitter though they are, than raise the sting of conscience to rob me of that sweet repose an undisturbed pillow never fails to give me. Of all men living, the man of integrity is most bound to pray for a reform in the modes of election, which not only prevail for the moment, but press

so deeply into, and characterise the general manners, which they pollute and disgrace. Happy would it be for England, were no canvassing allowed; or such a test established against the tricks and profligacy of election, that even the school-boy might imbibe it in his education, and fashion by degrees consecrate it; that the fallacy of setting up and worshipping every frothy declaimer, might no longer proclaim the vanity of the idol, or the weakness of the idolaters; that what is due to reason and principle, might be no longer sacrificed at the shrine of every ambitious knave. The firmness of virtue, and not the pomp of eloquence, has added so many pillars to support the liberty of England: Hamden, and others, are proofs of this; whilst Bath, and others, are proofs of the futility of bespangled rhetoric, *The*

*The Speech of a learned Country Knight
just mounting his Horse to
stand Candidate.*

MY Wife and Daughters, I have a great design, which I am happy to impart to you. A London house, and a circle of as fashionable people as can be found out the other side Temple-bar, I give you a prospect of. The whole depends on my success this day on the hustings: I am resolved to mount them once more, and become a Parliament-man; I mean, a Knight of the Shire. Mr. Centum or Mr. Manners have money to lend me at only fifty per cent. not to be paid by the simpletons who live on their estates, but to be easily kept down by the superior interest I shall have with Mr. P—, who is the arch-friend of knight-errantry, and who would rather see one Knight of the Shire at his levee, than two pigmy Members, such as are spawned at Weymouth, or such dittle corners of the kingdom. I hope to be a Colony Governor in six months. How you'll all rejoice to see me a representative of royalty!

royalty ! Oh ! how I shall be complimented, by Council and Assembly, on my talents and knowledge ! I shall be Chancellor, and Captain General.—“ Lord ! “ pappa,” says Betsey ; “ a Chancellor “ without law ? ” — “ Yes ; hear him, “ hear him,” is the general cry of the whole house.—To order, my dears. To proceed ; my Secretary will do the drudgery of science, my own department support the dignity of office. If I am again interrupted, I shall be in a passion ; and instead of becoming a member, I will resolutely live on my estates, and attend to them only. “ What ! ” says the wife in agonies ; “ what ! a Governor among the Creoles ? “ What ! Humphry disgrace us, by ac-“ cepting a paltry place so often given to “ insignificant officers of the army and na-“ vy ? What ! become a puppet in the “ hands of an Attorney General in the “ West Indies, like simple W— in the “ hands of a pantomime attorney, whom “ you once painted out to me as an object “ of contempt ? No, Humphry ; get to “ the head quarters of promotion ; get pre-“ sented at St. James’s ; and I will answer “ for

" for your success, if you act as an upright
 " husband should do to an indulgent wife;
 " by whose natural impulse you first had an
 " idea of standing. In our joint struggles
 " and co-operations we shall succeed in the
 " end. My dear, take courage, and stand
 " it to the last; or, if you must fall, fall
 " in search of a good thing, of all things
 " the most desirable. Politics, my dear,
 " have a double meaning: of this I give
 " you a hint at starting; and becoming, I
 " hope, a steady member. Take my ad-
 " vice as to the fountain of all joy, the
 " spring from which posterity must be
 " cherished, as the indication of a good
 " constitution. Take my advice, or Doc-
 " tors Commons shall follow."

*The faint Sketch of an unfortunate Can-
 didate in the Custody of a Bailiff.*

I KNEW I should have him as soon as
 the House was dissolved. He deposited
 two hundred and fifty pounds with the fa-

mous Annuity Attorney of Maiden-lane, who promised him his interest in a venal borough ; but who gave me a hint to stop him for a debt of three hundred, in which he is concerned. The unfortunate candidate is allowed, by all who know him, to be a man of the utmost honor, and nicest feelings. No man paid better when he had any money left ; no man gave to the poor so freely ; but his love for an extravagant wife undid him : to please her for a day, he would sacrifice a year's quiet. To have such a man in my custody, is more agreeable to me, than to have fifty hard-hearted villains, who laugh at me and my profession. I know how to inflame his favorite passion, and turn this event to my advantage. The very attorney who engaged to stand by him, is under-hand my adviser, and will be a sharer with me in the plunder. Whatever relates to his wife and children, whom he not only loves, but doats upon, touches him to the soul ; and in hopes of contributing to their pleasure, or supporting their honor when in danger, he would sacrifice his own tranquillity for life. I will, therefore, to torment him, shew a favorite smelling-box

of his daughter's, which I took in execution. I will, to torture him to the quick, hint to him, that his wife may fall a prey to an usurer, who has promised to assist her. Hark! bring me the great keys, and open the door of the Candidate's chamber.—

“ Good morrow, Sir, I feel for your distress, and wish to ease it.” — “ I thank you, Mr. Bailiff; but my annuities press hard upon me, and I fear bail is not to be had.” — “ You are perfectly right; the times are not what they were. I pity you, for I fear you are in for life: there is little prospect of redemption.

“ Good morrow, Sir; I must go: there are other candidates still to be taken: I am hound to do justice to all.” — “ Stop, my dear Sir, stop; give me your advice; leave me not in such agonies of affliction.” — “ I suppose,” says the Bailiff, “ you have heard that your wife is likely to be accommodated. This must be agreeable to you. Besides, here is something in my pocket you'll like to see. Look on this bottle; do you know it? Now, Sir, what say you to bond and judgment for only twelve hundred reversionary

" grant on that little estate in Wales ; and
 " I may perhaps be your friend, and on
 " that condition try to bring your own
 " attorney to you, as honest a man as any
 " in the profession."—It is done ; the poor
 Candidate is free ; but the Bailiff is certain
 of having him again in a few days, when
 his misery will probably bring on his death.
 As the annuity brokers and usurers are re-
 solved to keep their instruments in parlia-
 ment from suffering a bill to pass, so essen-
 tial to secure personal liberty, the dearest of
 all property ; there is no bad purpose, par-
 liament has not been mean enough to sup-
 port ; or bad men, it has not protected.

London, 1st of July, 1776. A. D. 1776.

O ENGLISHMEN ! if you do not take care, with the loss of your good name, every va-
 luable attribute of society will quit your
 once boasted land of liberty, and America
 will rise on your ruins.

*The unfortunate Prisoner's Memo-
randum.*

SOME leaders of the most fashionable circle, I had essentially served; and therefore to several of these professional friends made application for a small portion of relief, only the comfort of seeing and conversing with them: but they have returned answers of the most insulting nature. Of this I had some reason to be prepared; for the moment I put down my chariot, the very men, who had courted my acquaintance most sedulously, and who had always a hearty welcome at my table, became strangers, and never met me in the streets but with a sneer, pretending either not to see me, or asking my address under a pretext of calling on me, but in reality for insulting me for having quitted my house. These wretches of fashion, in my prosperity, were the first to accost me with the endearments of "My dear and worthy Friend," and other terms of the most sacred import, so often prostituted

prostituted to the most abject meaning, just to keep up the delusion of fashion. From a West Indian, I met with the balm of genuine friendship, filled with sentiments of real philanthropy; such as Sterne would have sworn to come from Le Fevre; and such as would do honor even to that heaven-descended humanity, which will for ever exalt, whilst it records, those amiable feelings of the heart, as formed by a God of mercy; and never more disgraced than by the callous fine gentlemen, who, to gratify a craving of vanity, would turn their backs upon a fallen fellow-creature, wanting the balm of comfort, and which perhaps one of this fashionable tribe could give, at the small self-denial of eating a pine at Mrs. Neale's.

To parliament I was taught to look up for honour and for promotion, when at Eton; and to the lessons of that seminary of vice, I am indebted for a prison. To the example of my school-fellows, and advice of relations, I resigned my own feelings, which would have led me to the certain comforts of a domestic life. Though I have exerted myself to please them in most respects, yet because

because I constantly opposed a Minister I abhorred, and can no longer gratify my wife's family in supporting her, as I did once, to the utmost stretch of that power which I no longer possess, I am deserted, and reproached by them all for my ignorance and meanness. Every error is now a crime ; and to afflict me, the delight of the very people who once flattered me to excess. I am thus, with a heart delighting in acts of charity and family endearment, degraded and insulted ; and become a sad emblem of fallen man in the place of the damned, in hell itself.

A Jew urging his Son to become a Christian, in order to have the Benefit of an Elector.

SON Isaac, you will be the author of your own ruin, and the cause of my being miserable. I have strained every nerve to put you into a track leading to riches ; by which, in the city language, your title

of a good man would have been out of the reach of malice to sap. Added to the force of precept, the example of Mr. C—the silversmith, and others, so successful in all the habits of usury, has been constantly before your eyes. At last, I have got the interest of a burgage town at my command; at least, until the proprietor can pay off the money I have advanced to him. I have urged you to hold a tenement under his Lordship; and, by that means, to find your way to his most confidential disclosure of the whole operation of an election. By gaining his confidence in these points, he becomes your instrument, by which, I see plainly, you might justly aspire to be an Alderman, may be a Contractor, and at last Member for the City. By only affecting to be a Christian, you may command all the strong holds of Christianity; and, by thus sapping its foundation, instruct our posterity, upon its ruin, to build a second Jerusalem.

FLATTERING as the prospect is, which I have raised to tempt you once more to secure a fortune, yet you turn your back upon it, and say, that though the benefits of an elector

elector are so great, yet they are too repugnant to the belief of a Jew, to be adopted, though only to deceive the common herd of people, who call themselves Christians. You have thereby incurred my displeasure for ever, and lost the advantage of a true saviour. Your sister Sarah shall possess every shilling of my cash; her language is truly sterling, and is as follows: " Father, " you are most certainly right; your advice " is the essence of the present fashion, by " which all the young ladies at the great " boarding schools, particularly in Queen- " square, are trained, to look up to the indulgence of all the passions of the great, " and such who are above the little dictates " of old, and long-discarded notions of honour; which are, as you wisely pronounce, obstructions to making a rapid " fortune at the present grand epoch of " luxury. Sir, if this is true, I am already " a Christian, and spurn my brother, who " would advise me to hold out, and oppose " your present excellent system, according " to which I am determined to act; and " will, to-morrow, marry that fashionable " East Indian, who has secured the interest

" of both Mr. P— and F—, the two oracles of all men who have ambition to gratify, avarice to satiate, or honor to acquire. To Parliament, and not the Synagogue, my future views are fixed." This is your sister's language; and when you become a bankrupt, she shall ride in her coach to Richmond, and be at the top of the fashionable world; and keep her horses at Hall's riding house, to compleat the character so conspicuous at the present enlightened age of general yenality and vice. —

HERE a pause ensues, and gives the reader time to recollect what passes before him every day: And I hope, by comparison, he will find much reality in the different portraits I have drawn, in order to deter, as much as the amiable likeness of obsolete virtue should invite, and fix the affection of all, who can be tempted to take only a glance of it.

The Conclusion.

WHEN the shackles of Parliament are flung off, and the judgment and free agency of the electors should re-assume the powers, and make every exertion congenial to the good of a boasted constitution; this is the critical moment made subservient to purposes most fatal to it. After having seen and felt the ill consequences of abusing the rights of election, one would think it would be impossible for the same electors to continue dupes to the diabolical habits they ought to consider as the source of all their disgrace and calamity; which, between one election and another, the blindest cannot avoid seeing the most insensible are unable to support. Still the unreformed electors continue their old practice; and, Hottentot-like, return to their guts and garbage. Not only the common herd of electors, but even their leaders, in some of the most important cities in England, give way to the delirium of the day; even at the head quarters

ters of political contests, in the City itself, a loss of common sense, or common integrity, is but too apparent. This assertion cannot be refuted, by even its best advocates, against demonstration. The citizens, in the strongest terms, complained to Majesty of the fatal effects which venal contracting members were the authors of; yet the Parliament is no sooner dissolved, than the same citizens become instantly mad, and make choice of one candidate, once by profession, and still in principle, a deep designing Contractor: and more to their dishonour, the citizens struggle hard to seat a second Contractor, a foundling of venality, in the place of an old and often applauded Member, Mr. S——; a man of undoubted integrity, which he has preserved at those moments of trial when Lord N—— had the full purse of the nation, and was as artful as prodigal in crushing public virtue, wherever he saw it. Mr. S—— was one of a very few, who remained uncorrupted. I am sure I shall have the concurrence of every cool and dispassionate citizen, who respects integrity more than accumulated wealth, and prefers the consistency of reason to the flights of caprice.

caprice. In favor of my attack on the political character of London, I appeal to the very few monuments they have been able to erect to such deceased Representatives who do any honor to their judgment or integrity. The same causes must have the same effects, so long as they remain radically unreformed. Lord Bacon observes, that in every popular state there should be outlets, to give a passage to the bad humours, which should be allowed a gentle perforation, that by too close confinement they may not rise to a fatal malignancy, and subvert government. In one respect, the interval of an English election may be regarded as an outlet, through which many bad humours certainly pass; but, unfortunately, every vapour attracted in the House of Commons recondenses, and falls again in showers over the devoted head of England. Such are the consequences of corruption, or that ridiculous spirit which pervades the kingdom, at the hour of chusing Representatives.

IN fixing satire where I think it is justly provoked, I am happy to do justice to Mr. Churchill, and other leaders of Westminster, where

where I find them struggling so gloriously to support public virtue, and suppress those principles which have proved so inimical to it. But even the struggles of these gentlemen prove a want of reform in the general habits to which the common class of electors are so fatally linkt. In America, the principles and modes of electing are justly to be revered, and justly imitated: they are, in every respect, unlike those by which the Representatives in England are self-created. Upon the whole, to rescue the nation from the political chaos in which it is involved, reformation is essentially wanted; and it can be no longer withholden. The King himself has at last felt the bite of the same serpent of false representation, which he was prevailed upon once to take to his bosom. Lord N——, you cherished that serpent, to bid defiance first to the People, and at last to their Sovereign.

REFORMATION should begin with an impeachment of the man who has thus disgraced, and ruined his country. The principles and reformed modes of election, which the ablest pens in England first pointed out, and

and supported, have been actually adopted, tried, and proved in America. What reason first suggested, experience has confirmed, and fixt as the basis of liberty. But to accomplish a reform, or keep the nation from convulsions, which would be inevitable, were the present system of government continued, the people should be doubly guarded, and no longer remain dupes to the stratagems, laid first by one and then another, to delude and trample on them. Prerogative once upheld parliament, against the people, to grasp its arbitrary views suggested by B— and N—. The late versatility of prerogative, does not strike me as an instance of its repentance from the grace of conviction; but it, I fear, comes from a deep design to affect a change of its temper, whilst it is the same, in its bias to overreach the people. If Mr. F— is not to be implicitly entrusted, Mr. P— is to be justly feared. If he starts back relative to a reform in parliament, he from that moment becomes an object of execration; and every man, of common sense and integrity, cannot but unite to make an example of so daring an impostor. If he supports fairly, and

and does actually, without equivocation, permit a reform in parliament to take place, and finish the wanton career of venality, every honest man in the kingdom will be bound to give him the utmost support. But the people should retain ample power to judge and reward ; and not previously, and before the hour of trial, mortgage themselves and posterity either to mortified prerogative, or the gratified ambition of an oligarchy.

A decorative floral and scrollwork illustration in the center of the page, featuring a central floral sprig with three flowers and several leaves, surrounded by swirling vines and smaller flowers, all rendered in black ink on a light background.

T 9

TO THE SCRUTINEERS
OF

WESTMINSTER.

TO support public virtue, and annihilate the influence of corruption, is true patriotism, at an æra, when every pillar of the constitution totters, and menaces a national fall, which villains wish to effect, but honest men should endeavour to prevent. You are not, I hope, so lost to the love of your country, as to sacrifice your dearest inheritance, as freemen, to the indulgence of a momentary victory in favor of a vain individual, or a few leading families, whose only recommendation is their ruinous splendor of living, when you may be instruments of real service to your country. You will not, I hope, sink into the paltry character of pup-

pets, moved by the insidious hand of men, who, to gratify their vanity, would damn you and your posterity. The alternative is honor, or disgrace ; and your own choice and principles must make the decision. Your steps are watcht with an anxious eye ; and you should move with redoubled spirit and integrity. Call on your countrymen for assistance ; and proclaim to them the villainy you have detected. Drag out to public view the first Duke of the land, whom you have found aiding and assisting in the great work of corruption, prevailing over the ignorance or distress of poor unhappy fellow-creatures, unable to resist the seducing arts which have been used to overcome their honesty, and which have been discovered and fixt home to some of the first families in Westminster. To such great offenders your attention cannot be too closely pointed, as from them the mischief most fatal to your liberty and happiness derives its birth ; and depends for support. After such scenes have been so fully opened to spread an alarm, your views should be turned from the common triumph of an election, and fixt to the means of punishing, not the instruments, but great rulers of the

elec-

election. Who can remain unaffected, after having seen the horrid spectacles exhibited to disgrace the name of England, and make it a theme of reproach all over the world, like that of Sodom? You have seen husbands of rank (as they are ridiculously called) lend their wives to keep up the appearance of prostitution, and give it a sanction. Finally, you have seen the Coalitient Hydra perpetrate every black machination that can possibly tarnish the character of human nature.

As Scrutineers into the great election, at the head quarters of knowledge, you are bound to act as centinels, and faithfully give the watch word, to prevent the thieves again from breaking into the tower of Liberty, and running away with its brightest jewel. If Lord N—— deserves death, and should still be the object of your efforts, which should be made to bring him to a trial; the man who would violate the natural rights of your constitution, to carry an election fraudulently, ought to be next in your list of enemies to your dearest inheritance, and should be made an example of; for in an attempt

attempt to corrupt the fountain head of electing Representatives; he has poisoned every branch that runs from the source to the most distant Borough. Be no longer dupes to declamation, but look on it as a political rock England is stranded upon, and from which, the exertions of every friend to his country should be made to save a sinking empire.



The *Colonies* and *Johnson's* *Book* to
 the *British* *Library*
 1765

